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A

LETTER

TO THE HONOURABLE THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

EAST INDIA COMPANY,

AND THE

PROPRIETORS OF INDIA STOCK.

By WILLIAM RANDALL,

LATE A CAPTAIN IN THE SERVICE OF THE NABOB MAHOMED ALLI CHAWN; AND AID-DE-CAMP TO HIS SON, THE AMIER UL OMRAH BEHADRE, COMMANDING THE ARMIES OF THE SAID NABOB.

A LETTER

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,

AND THE PROPRIETORS OF INDIA STOCK.

HONBLE SIRS, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN,

IN MY ABSENCE, I find I have been charged with the horrid crime of perjury: with having *puffed-off* a correſpondence with Sir Elijah Impey, which never exiſted; and likewiſe a correſpondence with Lord North and Mr. Robinſon!

I muſt beg your attention to what I am going to offer in my juſtification; and if the narrative ſhould appear tedious, that you will liberally ſuſpend your judgment, until I have completed it. All the letters and papers that are referred to, ſhall be offered to be lodged with the ſecretary at the India-Houſe, for public inſpection. No calumny or invective will be publiſhed by me. I will ſign my name to every thing that I am concerned in relative to my conduct in India. If the honourable the Court of Directors ſhall be ſatisfied with the rectitude of my conduct, I hope for their protection. I pledge myſelf to prove by certificates and letters, that before my departure for India, and during my reſidence there, I enjoyed the favour and good opinion of the moſt reſpectable perſonages; and that I have ever ſupported the character of an officer and an honeſt man. And I hope, if any perſons ſhould have a contrary opinion of me, (*i. e.* perſonal attack) they will be ſo fair as to tell me ſo perſonally.

After an uninterrupted friendſhip and intimacy of many years, now ſixteen, I received a letter in the following words, from Colonel Ruſſell Manners, of the 2d or Queen's regiment of dragoon guards.

Refer to Letter, N° 1.

" William Randall, Gentleman, ſerved a cornet in the late 21ſt " regiment of light dragoons; and ſince as cornet and adjutant, and alſo " lieutenant in the 2d regiment of dragoon-guards; both of which I was " lieutenant-colonel to; and during his ſervices in each corps, he always " behaved as a gentleman, and a very good officer.

" London, December 17, 1774.

" To Lieutenant William Randall, " North-Street, Weſtminſter."

" Russell Manners, " Col. 2d dragoon-guards."

I purchaſed all my commiſſions.

On the 18th of December 1774, I embarked on board an Indiaman, and paid one hundred guineas for my paſſage. I had two letters of recommendation from a very reſpectable baronet and member of parliament, one addreſſed to General Clavering, commanding the Company's forces in India; another addreſſed to Sir Elijah Impey, Lord chief juſtice in Bengal; a third from ——— Chapman, Eſq; of the Temple, to Mr. Judge Chambers in Bengal. I was ſure of the protection of Colonel Macleane; for he had been my good friend.

Upon my arrival at the Cape of Good-Hope, I met Colonel Macleane and the honourable Mr. Stewart homeward bound. Colonel Macleane was ſo friendly, as to give me credit for one hundred pounds at Madraſs, and a letter addreſſed to John Mackpherſon, Eſq; at Madraſs. The honourable Mr. Stewart gave me a letter of recommendation to Mr. Haſtings, governor general in Bengal; and another to Mr. Barwell, in council there.

On my arrival at Madraſs, Mr. Mackpherſon treated me with great kindneſs.

Refer to Letter, N° 2.

Signed, Your's affectionately,

Addreſſed to Captain Randall, John Mackpherson.

Refer to Letter, N° 3.

Signed, Your's ſincerely,

Addreſſed to Captain Randall. John Mackpherson.

Refer

Refer to Letter, N° 4.

Adieu! All happineſs and proſperity attend you.

Addreſſed to Captain Randall, at Mr. Majendie's Garden-Houſe.

Signed, Your's affectionately,
JOHN MACKPHERSON.

Refer to Letter, N° 5.

Signed, Your's affectionately,
JOHN MACKPHERSON.

Refer to Letter, N° 6.

From General Joſeph Smith, inviting Captain Randall to ſpend ſome time at Ennore. Captain Randall went to Ennore with Mr. Mackpherſon; and there, for the firſt time, was introduced to Sir Edward Hughes, knight, commodore of his Majeſty's ſquadron in the Eaſt-Indies.

About four weeks after my arrival, I began my journey for the Tanjore country, having firſt received a letter of recommendation from General Joſeph Smith, to the Amier Ul Omrah; and a letter from John Mackpherſon, Eſq; to the Amier Ul Omrah. In a few days I joined the Amier Ul Omrah Behadre, captain general of the army of his highneſs the Nabob, Mahomed Alli Chawn, encamped on the banks of the Cavery. His buſineſs there was ſaid to be the inſpection of the repairs of the bank of the Cavery. I ſhall make ſome obſervations on his conduct there at a proper time.

Upon my firſt introduction, the Amier was pleaſed to ſpeak of my recommendation and deſcription in the moſt favourable terms. I remained in camp with him till our return to Combeconum; and afterwards accompanied him on the march to Madraſs. At Combeconum, I read lectures to him on military buſineſs; and explained to him the evolutions of the Engliſh cavalry. Here it was he appointed me a captain in the Nabob's ſervice, and his own aid-de-camp. Soon after I went from Combeconum, and PERFORMED A PARTICULAR SERVICE FOR THE NABOB. The original papers in that buſineſs are now in the hands of Colonel Macleane. The gentleman who was the ſufferer is now in England: and as I never injured him in thought or deed, I am ſorry if he was diſpleaſed with my conduct. The Nabob and all his friends gave me their thanks for my behaviour; *and ſo did the gentleman who benefited from the change; and likewiſe his particular thanks for my interference with Captain George C———, by perſuading him not to chaſtiſe him for ſome underhand conduct.* I was a ſufferer in the affair. One of the members of the board, who cauſed Lord Pigot to be arreſted, is brother to the gentleman

who

who was under my care. However, the Amier gave him the command of the ſixth regiment of cavalry from that time, and told me, that I ſhould certainly have the next. For the information of the world, a regiment of the Nabob's cavalry is worth £. 4000 a year.

Refer to letters N° 7, 8, 9, 10, from Captain Edward Montague, commanding a battalion and the fort of Armogum. Some very intereſting matters relating to the Nabob's troops are contained in theſe letters; and many acknowledgments from Captain Montague, of Captain Randall's attention to his intereſt.

Refer to letters N° 11, 12, from Captain Archibald Campbell Graham, giving an account of the Nabob's ſervice; and thanking Captain Randall for procuring him the command of a regiment of Topaſſes.

Refer to letter N° 13, from Captain Tonyn, formerly a captain in the 15th regiment of light dragoons, General Elliott's; and now commanding the honourable company's troop of cavalry. A friendly letter, recommending to Captain Randall's protection his friend, to be provided for in the Nabob's ſervice.

Refer to letter N° 15, from Captain Parſloe, ſon of General Parſloe, thanking Captain Randall for procuring him the command of a battalion of Sepoys.

Refer to letters N° 16, 17, 18, from Captain Mackarell, commanding Chinglaput, to Captain Randall, ſolliciting Captain Randall's intereſt to procure an appointment for a friend in the Nabob's ſervice. The laſt dated a few days before Captain Randall left Madraſs.

Refer to letter N° 19, from Sir John Clarke to Captain Randall; a friendly invitation.

Refer to letters N° 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, from Lieutenant White, Dr. Bullman, Captain Stewart, Cornet Hammond, Lieutenant Stonehouſe, brother-in-law to Mr. Vanſittart, late of council in Calcutta; every one of which letters are full of acknowledgments for Captain Randall's favour, and contain ſome particulars relative to the Nabob's affairs.

Refer to letter N° 25, from Captain Jennings, in the Nabob's ſervice, to Captain Randall. A particular reaſon for inſerting this letter is in Mr. Randall's mind. This gentleman was ſtrongly recommended by General Clavering and Colonel Monſon to the Nabob; and was formerly a lieutenant in the 16th regiment of light dragoons.

Refer to letters N° 26 and 27, from Comero, a dubah of the Amier's, to Captain Randall, offering him the uſe of his houſe. This man was a particular friend of the Nabob's, the perſon whom Lord Pigot puniſhed for going to the king of Tanjore without authority; and the ſame Comero whom Captain Randall has the beſt reaſon to believe would have been inſtrumental in Lord Pigot's deſtruction.

Refer to letter N° 28, from Captain Wood; a friendly letter.

Refer to letter N° 29, from Mooca Kiſtna, dubaſt to the Amier Ul Omrah. This man has made an affidavit, I am informed.

Refer to letter N° 30, from Lieutenant Mills to Captain Randall. This man and his whole family were ſupported by Captain Randall many months; and the day after Captain Randall left Madraſs, was induced by the Nabob to make an affidavit againſt Captain Randall, about the 600 pagodas borrowed of the honourable Mr. Monckton. He had been confined (before Captain Randall intereſted himſelf in his behalf) three months by the Nabob.

The above letters, Mr. Randall hopes, will prove he was in ſome eſtimation at Madraſs; and that he was deſerving protection there, from the certificate of Colonel Manners; and for his general conduct.

Soon after the arreſt of Lord Pigot, Mr. Randall received the following letter, N° 31, from Captain Woolley, commandant of the Nabob's artillery, and his private ſecretary.

"Dear Randall,

"Several of your friends dine with me to-day. Pray let us have "your company."

"Your's.

Addreſſed "To Captain Randall." "J. Woolley."

In conſequence of this invitation I went to his houſe, and dined there; and the following gentlemen were there at Dinner:

George Stratton, Eſquire,
Colonel Steuart,
Mr. Judge Le Maiſtre, from Bengal,
Doctor Paiſley,
John Mackpherſon, Eſquire,
Mr. Oakley, ſecretary to the governor and council,
Sir John Clarke,
Colonel Capper,
And
The *poor unknown, worthleſs wretch*, Captain Randall.

Mr. Judge Le Maiſtre was conſulted about the Habeas juſt before, ſo the time is aſcertained. Bryant Scottney, Eſquire, came home in the Grenville, with Mr. Randall; and Mr. Randall relies on that gentleman's honour and integrity to confirm this circumſtance; and is ſorry that he has loſt this gentleman's friendſhip. Captain Randall can't forget, that a few days before he left Madraſs, Mr. Scottney recommended him to Mr. Sadleir's

Sadleir's protection, and wiſhed him to enter into ſome mercantile concern. Mr. Sadleir ſpoke favourably of Captain R. approved the ſcheme; and I take this opportunity of acknowledging his favour. This was the day after I made my affidavit.

LETTERS from Bryant Scottney, Eſquire, to Captain Randall.

Refer to them, N° 31, 32.

"Dear Randall,

"Though we are diſappointed in the company of the ladies, I hope "you don't forget that you promiſed to dine to-morrow with Woolley "and your friend,

"B. SCOTTNEY."

"Saturday evening."

LETTER 32.

"Many of Captain Randall's friends will be rejoiced to ſee him on "Sunday next, at Mr. Scottney's, to dinner, &c.

"Witneſs B. S."

I remember particularly well, on meeting *ſo many friends* as Captain Woolley called thoſe gentlemen, I was miſerably dull, and apprehenſive for Lord Pigot's ſafety. On obſerving this, Colonel Capper was pleaſed to come from the farther end of the table to enquire the reaſon of it, and deſired the *worthleſs, unknown* Captain Randall to ſing a ſong; and Captain Randall did ſing to the movement of a ſolemn dirge. Bryant Scottney, Eſquire, has too much honour and integrity not to remember this circumſtance. I take the liberty of leaving the charge of perjury to the laſt article.

The ſecond charge is, having PUFFED-OFF a correſpondence with Sir Elijah Impey, *which never exiſted.*—PUFFED-OFF is an illiterate word; but in reality I was proud of the correſpondence.—In conſequence of the letter of recommendation from the reſpectable baronet and member of parliament, who recommended me to Sir Elijah Impey (and whom I now moſt ſincerely thank for his recommendation of me, aſſuring him, at the ſame time, I have endeavoured to merit his future protection) I received the letter N° 33 from Sir Elijah Impey.

Refer to N° 33, the original.

I received it at Madraſs, by the hands of John Steuart, Eſquire, late ſecretary to the governor and council of Calcutta. That gentleman is now in England. It incloſed a very particular letter from Sir Elijah Impey to the Nabob, greatly in my favour, and was read to the Nabob

in public durbar, by Captain Woolley. It was not in my power to have PUFFED-IT-OFF ſufficiently.

Thus much for the ſecond charge.

And now to the correſpondence with Lord North and Mr. Robinſon.

Upon the arrival of the Sandwich, Captain Deane (brother-in-law, or otherwiſe related to Mr. Robinſon) at Madraſs, he was recommended, on account of his connections in England, to the Nabob. *Perhaps the Nabob might have been told, that he was sure of the interest of Lord North, by purchasing part of Captain Deane's cargo.*—However, the buſineſs was brought about, and the Nabob bought of Captain Deane conſiderably above 20,000 Star Pagodas WORTH.

I ſaw the Money paid to Captain Deane, at the houſe of Mr. Charles Darke, in Madraſs. Many of the things the Nabob could not touch, from his caſt. But the Amier told me, *Captain Deane was to carry a letter from the Nabob, and put it into the King of England's* POCKET. *He had been told so by others.* Soon after Captain Deane's departure for China, there was a letter came in a packet from England, addreſſed to Captain Deane of the Sandwich Indiaman, at Madraſs, and franked in the name of Robinſon, for the land poſtage. *Not knowing but this might have been an answer from the King of England, I seized the letter; carried it in all haste to Triplicane House, as I understood the Amier had authority to open any letter with the above address.* But recollecting that I had no buſineſs with the letter, I carried it back to the Fort-Houſe; and went afterwards to the houſe of Mr. Charles Darke (to whom the Nabob is indebted, *very fairly I dare say*, £. 40,000 ſterling) and informed him of the letter. The Amier ſome time after told me he was ſatisfied about that letter. I have as much information on this ſubject for a future publication, as will convince the public the Nabob's firſt object is to clear himſelf of every connection with the Honourable Eaſt India Company; and next with the Engliſh nation. I pledge myſelf to lay the proofs before the public. I know nothing about any other correſpondence with Mr. Robinſon or Lord North. But it is very probable I might have told Moota Kiſtna (having the letter in my hand) the letter did come from Lord North's ſecretary. This man was the perſon who brought me the minutes of the Nabob's military arrangements; *and many private ones.* Though the Amier Ul Omrah had at the time, an adjutant-general, two aid-de-camps, a ſecretary, and under ſecretary.

Six hundred pagodas is the next charge. All Mr. Monekton's notes to me will be in the poſſeſſion of the ſecretary: they are wrote upon ſcraps of paper, without ſeal, &c. Their appearance will ſpeak for this terrible charge.

When I had made my affidavit, I aſked my pay of the Amier. After ſhuffling a great while, I was paid ſhort of my right, 647 pagodas; it

was a great deduction to me. Then let me aſk any perſon, if it was either *wonderful* or *wicked* to aſk the loan of that ſum of Mr. Monckton? I borrowed it; gave my note for it; and am ſtill indebted to him.

The next charge is, tampering with ſome Moor men, to engage with me, in charging the Amier with an intent to murder Lord Pigot. Monſtrous abſurdity! Can human credibility go ſuch lengths, as to ſuppoſe a European in his ſenſes, and of ordinary ability, ſhould endeavour to engage a Moor man to make a charge againſt his lord and maſter, who was giving him the means of ſubſiſtence? And here let me obſerve, that an affidavit is ſaid to have been made againſt me, by a Moor man, of a conſultation, *who can't ſpeak a word of Engliſh*; nor do I underſtand more of Moors, than to aſk about the moſt trifling concerns, or call a ſervant to bring me water, &c. I have heard it has been obſerved I delayed my affidavit ſome months. *The honeſt Moor men, and every other perſon who have made affidavits, forgot to make them till I began the buſineſs.* They muſt have known my intentions, if I had had *any converſation with them*; *Why did not they make the diſcovery, as ſoon after as poſſible, when they refuſed to be concerned with me, as they ſay?*

If I had made a declaration, ſingly upon my word of honour, againſt the Amier Ul Omrah, the Nabob's ſecond ſon, it would have been neceſſary for me to have given ſome other evidence in ſupport of ſuch declaration, by proving inconteſtibly, that the Amier Ul Omrah had not intruſted me alone, with his horrible intentions againſt the life of Lord Pigot. I am ſure ſuch proofs of his guilt were in my power. No other motives than thoſe which ariſe from a very clear conſcience, have induced me to publiſh my affidavit. I have given to it the moſt ſolemn authority: and I have no trepidation. Preſuming upon your humanity, and from that regard which every man ſhould have to his own honour, permit me, Gentlemen, to reply to an article of your General Letter, which I underſtand Sir Robert Fletcher has been pleaſed to make concerning me. I was not ſo fortunate to have permiſſion from the Honourable the Court of Directors, to go to India. Knowing the conſequences of ſuch a ſtep, as going without leave, I ſhould ſilently have ſubmitted to your orders, whenever you might have been pleaſed to iſſue any reſpecting me. If the word *clandeſtine* is uſed by Sir Robert, as I am informed, it will better apply to himſelf; for a gentleman came on board the ſhip in the Downs clandeſtinely, after your officers had left the ſhip, under Sir Robert's protection. This gentleman was appointed an enſign upon his arrival at Madraſs. Another gentleman, Robert Smith Bird, I am informed, confirms *ſomething* relating to me. It would have been more to the advantage of the Honourable Eaſt India Company's ſervice, if Sir Robert Fletcher had permitted this gentleman to have returned home in his capacity as ſurgeon to the ſhip, than to force him into the ſervice of the Nabob, as his houſhold ſurgeon, when he was ſo overcharged with gentlemen

tlemen of the faculty; more eſpecially as he never employs any of them. I could ſay ſomething more about Sir Robert. But peace to his manes; for I think he is no more.

The day after I publiſhed my affidavit, I went to the houſe of Mr. Charles Darke, a free merchant at Madraſs, and in converſation with him, I mentioned generally, the contents of my affidavit. His reply was, "I am ſorry you have publiſhed it; for you will never get any "ſums of money, the Amier Ul Omrah has promiſed you; and it will "prevent me from being paid three lack of pagodas the Nabob and his "family owe me, ſo ſoon as I ſhould have been, had you remained ſilent." This gentleman has made an affidavit. The affidavit of Samuel Mills muſt be attentively conſidered. This man had been a lieutenant in the Nabob's ſervice. He reſigned, in order to enter into the ſervice of the Naizam, and went to Hyderabad for that purpoſe; but on his return to Madraſs to ſettle his affairs, he was ſeized by a party of the Nabob's cavalry, and eſcorted 200 miles under a guard to St. Thomé, where he was confined three months. I thought it very improper, for a perſon who had the Nabob's permiſſion to quit his ſervice, and an authority from the officer commanding the fort he was ſtationed at, to go to Hyderabad, ſhould be brought three times a week to the Amier's durbar, with a guard. It was very unmilitary; and on Lord Pigot's arrival, I adviſed with Mr. John Mackpherſon, a particular friend to the Nabob, on the illegality of confining Samuel Mills. The Amier Ul Omrah was alarmed, and with many profeſſions of friendſhip deſired me to releaſe Mills, and to get him to acknowledge under his ſignature, that he acquitted the Amier Ul Omrah from every conſequence, on account of his confinement; as he threatened to apply to the Mayor's Court, and to the Governor and Council of Madraſs, for redreſs. Mills ſigned a paper to that purpoſe, on my promiſing, in the Amier's name, that he ſhould be reſtored to the Nabob's ſervice at a convenient opportunity. The Amier, as uſual, failed in his promiſe, and I was obliged to maintain the man and his family ſeveral months. Juſt as the Grenville was leaving the road of Madraſs, two of my ſervants came on board to tell me, Mills was reſtored to the Nabob's ſervice, and that he had made an affidavit before the Mayor. Living in the ſame houſe, he ſaw all my papers, and I know, in my own breaſt, there were no concerns, that would tend to my diſhonour, had they been publiſhed to the whole ſettlement. The firſt time I ſaw the Amier Ul Omrah, after the day on which Lord Pigot was ſeized, was at Triplicare Houſe: ſeveral gentlemen were preſent, and I noticed the Amier's ſaying to Cornet Pater, of Captain Macaliſter's regiment of cavalry, "You "muſt not go from Madraſs, Sir, there will be a little buſineſs for you." I was the more ſurpriſed, as this gentleman had, with much concern, obſerved to me, the Amier would ſeldom permit him to pay his compliments to him. When the gentlemen retired, I aſked the Amier Ul Omrah, why I had not the honour to write his letters, as uſual? for Captain

Macalister's regiment was then on its march from Arnee to the Mount; and the order for marching was sent to the commanding officer from another quarter. He replied, Let the secretary write the letters: you must go to England in the Grenville: the Nabob wants to employ you on business. I told him, his embassies to England had cost him already large sums of money, and to no purpose*: that he had no business with the disputes at the presidency. I went in the evening to him at Chipauk House; and then I told him I suspected he had some new scheme for Lord Pigot's destruction: that I would directly declare what he had proposed to me, and expose him. After upbraiding him with his villainy, I told him he was unfaithful to the Company, and intentionally a murderer. The next morning I met him in his chariot: he chose to forget what had passed, put his hand towards me, and said he was my good friend. I knew he would gladly have had me out of the way, upon any terms, for his fears had appeared, when I told him I would inform my Lord Pigot of his designs. A servant of the Honourable Company's, named Norris, was in the carriage with him: he is secretary to Mr. Stratton, and has been pleased also to make an affidavit. I went directly to the Mount, presented my papers to Mr. Monckton and Mr. Russell, made my compliments to Lord Pigot, whom I had never seen but once before, years ago; and afterwards returned to Madrass, and made my affidavit before the Mayor. The morning after I waited on Sir Edward Hughes with a letter from Lord Pigot. On presenting my affidavit, I observed to the Commodore, that I hoped, that paper would confirm the necessity Lord Pigot had, for having applied to him for the safety of his person. Though the conversation may appear trifling, I declare to the Honourable Court of Directors, his reply was, "I don't "see how this matter concerns me, Mr. Randall:" I was not a little surprised at his adding, "the Amier, I am sure, is your friend; for some "days ago, on my asking him for some preferment for my friend, Cap-"tain George Jennings, he told me he had promised you the command "of the first regiment of cavalry that should be vacant." Soon after I left the Commodore, and went to the Amier's office, and gave in a written paper of my resignation of the Nabob's service. From thence I went to the Nabob's house, for the purpose of confronting the Amier before him, the Commodore, and any of his friends; but he did not think proper to see me. I remained at my house, at St. Thomé, ten days after, but went to Madrass every day; and then being informed the Grenville was to sail the next day, I took leave of my friends, at the sea-gate, at twelve o'clock in the day, and went on board the Grenville in the road. I did not hear, 'till the Grenville was under way, from Captain Abercrombie, that Messr. Stratton, &c. had given orders to him not to take me on board. As a good subject, and as a citizen of the world, I pay perfect obedience to the laws of every country I may chance to reside in, and therefore I should most certainly have gone on shore to have answered

* I do not allude to the appointment of Mr. M.

every charge they could make; had I known this order ſooner, I have treſpaſſed too long on your indulgence already, but my friends at Madraſs adviſed me to communicate theſe particulars to the Honourable Court of Directors.

I have the greateſt deference for the King's commiſſion; but muſt preſume to ſay, that Sir Edward Hughes's letter, as far as it relates to me, bears evident marks of prejudice. If the Commodore did not chuſe to acknowledge that I had, 'till within a few days of my departure from India, the honour of his acquaintance, and have ſometimes dined with him, why ſhould he be ſo careful to deſcribe me, as "*One William Randall**?" Is it poſſible that he could wiſh the ſecretary of ſtate ſhould think me a private ſoldier in the Honourable Company's ſervice?

I forbear to mention many circumſtances that might be ſerviceable to my cauſe, and would be unfavourable to my enemies. Before I determined to take the part I have in the diſputes at Madraſs, I ſaw the *impolicy* of ſuch conduct, and I now feel too much the weight of power. Had I adopted *one line of conduct*, I might have poſſeſſed an ample fortune. But I am happy in having a clear conſcience. Great pains have been taken to exculpate the Nabob and the Amier Ul Omrah from having any previous knowledge of the revolution. On the 24th in the evening, at the inſtant Lord Pigot was ſeized, I was going to Choultry Plain, and in my way, I paſſed the Choultry, where the Amier's horſe-guard is picquetted. The men were mounted, and two troopers came up to my palankeen. It was ſo very light from the moon, that one of the men came up to my palankeen, and leaning from his horſe, ſeeing who I was, made me his ſalam: (he had been my orderly trooper) and galloped up to his guard again. A ſmall detachment of the Nabob's cavalry was conſtantly at the Mount, with the Honourable Company's artillery guard, over Lord Pigot; and a piquet has been every night on duty at the Amier's gate, ſince Lord Pigot's confinement, and I perfectly recollect were ſtationed there two or three nights before the revolution happened.

It may be imagined, the ſhort time I was in the Carnatic was inſufficient to procure any true account of the government, polity, intereſt, &c. of the different powers, as far as relates to an intercourſe by trade, or alliance with the Honourable Eaſt India Company. But I hope it will be allowed, that an indefatigable perſeverance of fifteen months may be productive of ſome information, not unworthy the attention of this Honourable Court.

The real motives which the Nabob Mahomed Alli Chawn had for ſending his ſecond ſon, the Amier Ul Omrah, into the Tanjore country, in the month of April, 1775, cannot be known with certainty. The reaſon aſſigned was, that the bank of the Cavery having broke its mound,

* This will apply to the general letter, wrote by the majority, ſpeaking of "One "William Randall."

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it was neceſſary his ſon the Amier ſhould be preſent, to ſee the channel formed again. This would have been a plauſible reaſon, if the original one had not been conſecrated with almoſt certainty. I believe Mr. Wynch can tell you, that he poſitively inſiſted the Amier Ul Omrah ſhould not go into Tanjore. A prudent direction, if he had ſubjoined, that none of the Nabob's attendants ſhould be permitted to enter that place. The bank was repaired injudiciouſly, and ſo contrary to every principle of engineering, that it was forced away the laſt year by a ſtrong eddy, that conſtantly formed againſt it, and not by the rains only.

The apprehenſions of the miſerable Rajah were increaſed, by the Amier's remaining ſo long in the country. Already a priſoner, and deprived of his kingdom, he had too much reaſon to imagine his exiſtence was not to be of long duration. If the feelings of humanity will admit a generous ſympathy to the diſtreſſed, ſurely this unfortunate Rajah (the laſt of the Gentoo caſt) was an object of pity and compaſſion. The Honourable the Court of Directors having diſapproved of the expedition to Tanjore, it appears needleſs for me to ſay any thing relative to the meaſures that were taken in the conducting that buſineſs. But, as I had collected ſome materials relative to it, for the information of the Honourable Court of Directors, I hope they will not be offended at my inſerting a few of them here. Others are reſerved for a future publication.

The army for the ſiege approached it with as much parade as if they had been going to oppoſe a body of veterans.

The unformed army of Tanjorines were at laſt roufed from their natural indolence and effeminacy, and made ſome feeble attacks againſt an army who had no authority, not even the common plea of nations going to war, for invading their country. They were repulſed with ſlaughter; and their fears operated ſo ſtrongly, that though they continued to make a general defence, their batteries ſometimes ceaſed firing; through complaiſance, when the trenches of the beſiegers were relieved; an evident proof of their pacific diſpoſition. At laſt the breach was practicable, and the forlorn hope entered the place, when it was well known the beſieged were at their devotions, or in ſleep. New renters, and their train of Amildars, &c. &c. were let looſe on this unfortunate country. The lands were raiſed to an amount, more than the farmers and manufacturers could poſſibly receive by their utmoſt exertion; and the conſequence was, that half the inhabitants of this once flouriſhing kingdom immediately deſerted it. The Rajah was promiſed by the Nabob a ſmall ſum monthly for his ſubſiſtence. Report ſays it was not punctually paid.

The reaſon given for the guaranteeſhip of the Nabob Mahomed Alli Chawn, by the peace of 1763, is ſaid to be his ſtrong attachment, and his readineſs to ſupport the power of the king of England, and the intereſts of the honourable Eaſt India Company in the Carnatic. I will not readily

determine

determine what his views are at preſent, but he has given cauſe, not long ſince, to ſuſpect his integrity.

Though the viſit of the perſon uſually ſtiled the Count Donop, at Madraſs, was ſaid to be accidental, in his way to Bengal, it is well known how anxious Mahomed Alli Chawn was to hear what reception that gentleman had from the governor of Madraſs. Mr. Wynch introduced him to the Nabob, by whom he was received with great marks of attention, and had a preſent of 2000 pagodas. The Count was introduced to Mr. Wynch, by a letter from Governor Law, at Pondicherry, in conſequence of another letter wrote in his favour by the Duke de Praſlin, at Paris, to Mr. Law.

This foreigner had been employed during the laſt war in Germany, by the French court, was well known in Bengal, and General Clavering refuſed to ſee him; alledging him to be *mauvais ſujet*. While I was at Madraſs, I had ſeveral converſations with the Amier Ul Omrah about the Count, and he ſeemed exceeding anxious to know if he had any powers from the French miniſtry.

Montecuculi, an Italian General of note, ſays, in his Memoirs, "We "ſhould never loſe ſight of that great object for war, the honour of the "ſtate, and the protection of our holy religion;" adding "that the van-"quiſhed ſhould be treated with humanity; for the miſerable are ſurely "objects of pity, not of oppreſſion."

There is certainly no reaſon for applying the whole of that illuſtrious General's obſervation to the Nabob, conſidered as a power at war.

The Nabob's firſt military officer of the rank of major, on a march from Trichionopoly to Tomgoody, under pretence of bringing the natives to pay obedience to, and acknowlege the Nabob, was pleaſed to MURDER many of them in cool blood. The expreſſion will not be thought an improper one, when I charge him with ſending ſeveral of the natives heads in a ſack, wantonly, to Colonel ———, now I believe in England. The next officer, a major, is a rigid Roman Catholic; and if religion is an object worthy his attention in India, he has a large field. The command of the extenſive country of Ramnaid is given to him.

The writer of this paper has ſo much to recollect for the protection of his honour in the firſt inſtance, that it is not to be wondered at, if his language is inelegant, ſentences repeated, &c. &c.—The private line of his life he hoped would have ſcreened him from being publicly charged as a perjurer, and in his abſence. He takes the liberty of reminding his friends, that ſoon after his arrival in the captain general's camp, and a ſtranger, he took the firſt concern in the Nabob's military arrangements. He will not ſay it was owing to his ability as an officer, or credit as a man; but rather ſuppoſe it owing to his recommendation. The opponents of Lord Pigot were Mr. Randall's friends; and the day he made his affidavit "was the day of his deſtruction." Mr. Randall, in anſwer to the iniquiry, "Why did he not make his affidavit ſooner?" ſays, That from his cloſe intimacy with the Amier, and being conſtantly

with him, [illegible] always [illegible] to divert his intentions, or give [illegible] to time. [illegible] of these conversations were always in private. It was easy for the Amier to deny having made them, as for Mr. Randall to have affirmed the contrary. He waited anxiously for an opportunity of having other proofs, to confirm his affidavit. In a little time it is possible those proofs may be presented to the Honourable Court of Directors. Mr. Randall has not been out of his house since his arrival; and, added to an imperfect state of health, he has the additional distressing obligation of being obliged to write all day. [illegible] Lord Pigot was a stranger to Mr. Randall: he never saw him but once in his life, several years ago, at Mr. Angelo's riding-house, before he went to him in confinement: and at parting, Lord Pigot said, "My dear Randall, I have no means "of rewarding your disinterested conduct. God bless you!" The night Lord Pigot was alarmed in sleep, by an order to remove him somewhere else, I knew Macalister's regiment of cavalry was on the march from Arnee to the Mount, by an order that went from another quarter. And as I usually wrote those orders, my fears were but too justly alarmed for Lord Pigot's safety. The time of night the attempt to remove him was made, warranted such suspicions. Who did Mr. Randall make acquainted first, with the charge against the Amier? *To Lord Pigot, governor of Madrass!* No, *to Lord Pigot in confinement; and without a friend.* Nothing gives Mr. Randall more concern, than to have a difference of opinion with Mr. Macleane on any subject. Such [illegible] partial representations have been sent him for publication, as makes it necessary for Mr. R. to say thus much in his justification.—Sir Robert Fletcher's minute is a curious one. Mr. Randall acknowledges to have wrote Sir Robert Fletcher a letter on the passage, and desires it may be produced. And having made himself well acquainted with India concerns from reading, Mr. Randall was willing to make himself serviceable to Sir Robert Fletcher; who has been accustomed to *employ others* to justify his conduct. Sir Robert says, I attempted to impose on him. A good servant of the company would have informed the settlement of Madrass, there was an impostor there. However, Mr. Randall was honoured with Sir Robert's friendship till he made his note. 'Tis said in the Amier's letter, that Lord Pigot and Mr. Munckton told Mr. Shameer, they did not believe Randall's affidavit; and yet the Nabob charges Lord Pigot with having bribed Randall to perjure himself! George Stratton, Esquire, says *he is sure* the Nabob's son is innocent, for he told him so with his *own mouth*; and the Nabob says he had no *previous* knowledge of the revolution, for he was ASLEEP when it happened.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Honourable Sirs,
and Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
WM. RANDALL.

North-Street, Westminster,
May 3d, 1777.

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